

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00165 011159Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0165

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MARCH 31 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 132ND PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS HELD ON MARCH 31 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SOVIET REP (TARASOV), GDR DEPREP (WIELAND) DELIVERED THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF GDR REP (OESER), WHO WAS REPORTEDLY IN BERLIN. THE FIRMLY WORDED GDR PRESENTATION ATTACKED THE WESTERN POSITION AS ALLEGEDLY BEING IN OPEN CONTRADICTION TO THE AGREED GOALS, PRINCIPLES AND SUBJECT MATTER OF THE TALKS, CALLED UPON THE WEST TO RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 1976 PROPOSALS, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR GUARANTEES REGARDING THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN SECOND STAGE REDUCTIONS. IT ALSO INCLUDED THE FIRST REFERENCE IN AN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00165 011159Z

EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT TO THE EAST'S PROPOSAL THAT NATIONAL DATA BE TABLED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON THE MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS OF EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE GDR STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. THE GDR AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES ADVOCATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT IN THESE TALKS AS IS EVIDENCED BY THEIR RECENT

INITIATIVES.

2. THE EAST, THROUGH SUCH STEPS AS ITS FEB 1976 PROPOSAL AND TABLING OF MANPOWER DATA IN JUNE 1976, HAS ESTABLISHED THE BASIS FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WHICH THE WEST HAS SO FAR DECLINED TO PURSUE.

3. THE EAST SEEKS TO ESTABLISH POINTS OF COMMON AGREEMENT WHILE THE WEST UNDERLINES POINTS OF DIFFERENCE IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO STATEMENTS BY WESTERN LEADERS THAT THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE POLITICAL IMPETUS.

4. THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS MUST FIRST OF ALL GIVE HONEST AND SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE EAST'S FEB 1976 PROPOSAL.

5. THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT ONLY IN ACCORD WITH THE DOCUMENTS AGREED AT THE PREPARATORY TALKS, BUT ALSO INCORPORATES FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION.

6. THE WESTERN CONTENTION THAT ITS DEC 1975 PROPOSAL HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED IS UNTENABLE AND REFLECTS THE WEST'S UNWILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE.

7. THE WESTERN PROPOSAL OPENLY CONTRADICTS THE AGREED AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE TALKS BECAUSE:

A. THE NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS' UNWILLINGNESS TO INDICATE THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS VIOLATES THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUALITY;
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00165 011159Z

B. REDUCING ONLY GROUND FORCES - AND DOING SO UNEQUALLY - IS CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENT THAT ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS ARE TO BE REDUCED; AND

C. THE COMBINED COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING IS AN ATTEMPT TO REVISE THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED GOALS OF THE TALKS.

8. SUCH A REVISION OF THE GOALS AGREED IN THE BALANCED COMPROMISE STATEMENT OF JUNE 1973 WOULD DEPRIVE THAT STATEMENT OF ITS MEANING.

9. NATO PARTICIPANTS STILL AIM AT OBTAINING UNEQUAL REDUCTIONS IN THEIR FAVOR.

10. THE WESTERN THESIS OF DISPARITIES FAVORING THE EAST IS ARTIFICIAL AND IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE EXISTING EQUILIBRIUM IN CENTRAL EUROPE TO WHICH LEADING WESTERN POLITICAL FIGURES THEMSELVES CONTINUALLY REFER.

11. THE EMPTINESS OF THE WESTERN ASSERTION OF THE EXISTENCE OF DISPARITIES IS APPARENT IN LIGHT OF THE OFFICIAL FIGURES PRESENTED BY EACH SIDE.

12. THE EAST IS READY TO TABLE NATIONAL FIGURES FOR THE MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS OF EACH EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANT, ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS, BUT HAS THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES ARE NOT READY FOR SUCH A STEP.

13. BASED ON ARGUMENTS ABOUT DISPARITIES AND SOVIET GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY, THE WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES NOT ONLY REFUSE TO REDUCE EFFECTIVELY THEIR ARMED FORCES, BUT EVEN SPEAK OF A RIGHT TO INCREASE THEM.

14. WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES ARE ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN INCREASING THEIR ARMAMENTS WHILE ALSO SEEKING TO REDUCE AND LIMIT SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MBFR V 00165 011159Z

ARMED FORCES.

15. ALL STATES SHOULD CONTRIBUTE EQUIVALENTLY TO REDUCTIONS, A PREMISE DENIED BY THE FRG REP DESPITE THE BUNDESWEHR'S ROLE AS NATO'S STRONGEST FORMATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

16. ALL SOCIALIST DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ARE PREPARED TO ASSUME DEFINITE REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS AND EXPECT THE FRG AND OTHER WESTEN PARTICIPANTS TO DO LIKEWISE.

17. THE SECURITY OF SOCIALIST PARTICIPANTS REQUIRES THAT ALL WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES GIVE GUARANTEES REGARDING THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS' SECOND STAGE REDUCTIONS.

18. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD MODIFY THEIR UNREALISTIC ATTEMPT TO SECURE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES AND RETURN TO THE JUNE 1973 COMMUNIQUE AS A BASIS FOR CORRECTING THE WEST'S POSITION.

19. THE SOCIALIST STATES, WHO HAVE NOT INCREASED THE PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, CALL UPON THE WEST TO ACCEPT A FREEZE ON MANPOWER STRENGTH IN ORDER TO BUILD MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

20. THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GDR AND HUNGARY HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS IN THE TALKS WILL SHOW A READINESS TO COOPERATE IN SOLVING OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN THE TALKS.RESOR

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